

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1271 without my signature.

This bill would allow a vote-by-mail (VBM) voter to authorize any other person to deliver or return their ballot to the elections official or the precinct board at any polling place within the jurisdiction.

As I have noted when vetoing similar legislation any effort to increase voter participation must be balanced against the potential increase in voter fraud. While I appreciate the author's intent and efforts to protect against fraud, the opportunity is still too prevalent. Requiring written authorization by the voter is an important safeguard; however, there is no way to verify that the "authorized representative" is not paid by, or volunteering with a political party, campaign or other political entity. While some VBM voters could benefit from this added flexibility, it would leave the door open for bad actors to abuse the system. Therefore I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger